

See Board Letter for  
Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance

See Chief Administrative Officer's Memo



# COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

## FOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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November 12, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

### COMMISSION ON INSURANCE HOLOCAUST ERA INSURANCE CLAIMS (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

#### IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

- 1) Approve the Los Angeles County Commission on Insurance's recommendations to support United States H.R. 1210 (Waxman) The Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act of 2003.
- 2) Send a letter to President Bush requesting his support of HR1210; that he encourage the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) to expedite processing of all claims and request an accounting of ICHEIC expenditures and the dollar amount of claims satisfied to date; and that he instruct the State Department to cooperate fully with the survivors and their families and organizations working to aid the survivors.
- 3) Authorize the Commission to support the Holocaust Family Survivors, Bet Tzedek and B'nai Brith in their attempts to secure compensation for the life insurance policies issued to family victims by insurance companies during the Holocaust era by cosponsoring two community information fairs, one on November 19, 2003 at Bet Tzedek, 145 S. Fairfax Avenue, Suite 200 in West Los Angeles and the other on November 23, 2003 at Adat Ari El, 12020 Burbank Blvd. Valley Village, in the San Fernando Valley; and instruct County Departments to cooperate in making the fairs a success. The purpose of these fairs is to inform people of the December 31, 2003 deadline to register people rightfully entitled to compensation.
- 4) Authorize the Commission to send notices to the media, including the Beverly Press, the Jewish Journal and the Panorama Newspaper, regarding the December 31, 2003 deadline, established by ICHEIC, for filing claims for compensation for unpaid insurance policies.

- 5) Finally, the Commission respectfully requests that your Board work with other governing bodies within the State of California and other jurisdictions and organizations encouraging their support in this matter to aid and protect survivors and their heirs and their right as insured to receive compensation.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION:**

During World War II, many Jewish families in Europe purchased life insurance policies as financial protection for loved ones who would survive the war. However, Nazi Germany did not preserve insurance policy documents nor did they issue death certificates for Jews and countless untold others murdered in the concentration camps. As a result, many holocaust victims and their heirs have been unable to collect on the policies purchased over half a century ago.

**FISCAL/FINANCING IMPACT:**

The costs of the media campaign are estimated to be: fees waived for radio advertisements and television advertisements; and \$1759 for local publications. These expenditures would be charged to the Board of Supervisors Executive Office budget.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**


On June 23, 2003 the United States Supreme Court ruled Section 13800 et al of the California Insurance Code unconstitutional because it interferes with the National Government's conduct of foreign relations. This law required California insurers to submit policyholder lists for policies that the California insurer and their related insurers wrote to persons in Europe between 1920 and 1945. It also directed that policyholder lists be made available to the public in a Holocaust Era Insurance Registry established and maintained by the California Department of Insurance and set a penalty, suspension of the insurer's Certificate of Authority, for failure to submit such policyholder lists.

United States Representative Henry Waxman introduced H.R. 1210 The Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act of 2003 on March 11, 2003. This bill provides for the establishment of the Holocaust Insurance Registry by the Archivist of the United States and requires certain disclosures by insurers to the Secretary of Commerce.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):**

This has no direct impact on County projects or services. However, there are thousands of holocaust survivors in Los Angeles County who may benefit from approval of this recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Scott Svonkin  
Chairperson

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/12/2003

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SS: ml

cc: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller



# HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS & RELATIVES

## THE DEADLINE TO FILE AN INSURANCE CLAIM IS DECEMBER 31, 2003

*The International Commission On  
Holocaust Era Insurance Claims  
(ICHEIC) set December 31, 2003  
as the deadline to file a claim  
for compensation for an  
unpaid insurance policy.*



**IF YOU ALREADY FILED A CLAIM WITH ICHEIC  
OR THE CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF INSURANCE,  
THERE IS NO NEED TO FILE AGAIN.**

**YOU CAN FILE EVEN IF YOU  
HAVE NO DOCUMENTATION.**



**CALL: (323)549-5883**  
or log on to: [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov)



*There is no charge for this service.*



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

November 14, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
**GLORIA MOLINA**  
First District

YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**MOTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 1210 (WAXMAN, D-CA), THE HOLOCAUST VICTIMS INSURANCE RELIEF ACT OF 2003 (ITEM NO. 48, AGENDA OF NOVEMBER 18, 2003)**

Item No. 48 on the November 18, 2003 Agenda is a recommendation from the Commission on Insurance that the Board support H.R. 1210 (Waxman, D-CA), the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act of 2003 and send a letter to President Bush requesting his support of H.R. 1210. The Commission also asks the Board to authorize it to support Holocaust Family Survivors, Bet Tzedek and B'nai Brith in their attempts to secure compensation by co-sponsoring two community information fairs, and to send notices to the media regarding the December 31, 2003 deadline to register people rightfully entitled to compensation. Finally, the Commission requests that the Board work with other governing bodies, jurisdictions and organizations, encouraging their support to aid and protect survivors and their heirs and their right as insured to receive compensation.

H.R. 1210 would establish the Holocaust Insurance Registry to be maintained by an Archivist, require certain disclosures by insurance companies, establish a \$5,000 per day penalty for failure to comply with the disclosure requirements, require the sharing of this information with states that request it, and allow states to enact their own disclosure laws.

H.R. 1210 was introduced on March 11, 2003 and referred to the House Committees on Financial Services and Government Reform. There were 63 co-sponsors. On March 25, 2003, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, and on March 28, 2003, it was

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referred to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises. To date, no hearings have been held and no other action has been taken on the bill.

There is no Board policy on this issue. **Therefore, a County position on Holocaust victims' insurance relief is a matter for Board determination.**

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DRS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Legislative Strategist